

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00853 010639Z

12

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 /040 W

----- 067829

R 311410Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2985

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS ASMARA 0853

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - THE DIRG VS THE STUDENTS

REF ASMARA 844

1. THE STUDENT ASSOC OF THE UNIV OF ASMARA (SAUA) WROTE A LETTER DATED OCT. 25, 1974, ENTITLED "OUT STAND TOWARDS THE ETHIOPIA FIRST MOVEMENT AND ITS MASS EDUCATION," WHICH IT FORWARDED TO THE DIRG OF THE NORTH. IN THE LETTER THE STUDENTS STATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR THE MASS EDUCATION PROGRAM, WHICH THEY CLAIM TO HAVE CALLED FOR TWO YEARS AGO, BUT REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ONE PLANNED BY THE EPMG. THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

OCT. 25, 1974

OUT STAND TOWARDS THE ETHIOPIA FIRST MOVEMENT AND ITS MASS EDUCATION

TWO YEARS AGO THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ASMARA HAILED THEIR NASCENT ORGANIZATION "THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ASMARA (SAUA)." ONE OF ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES AS STATED IN ITS CONSTITUTION IS, TO DEVELOP A GENUINE AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE CONCERNING THE FACTORS WHICH GOVERN THE SOCIETY, BY GIVING DUE EMPHASIS TO THE PERENNIAL PROBLEMS WHICH BESET OUR SOCIETY OUT OF A GENUINE EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THEIR SOLU-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00853 010639Z

TION. THIS SHOWS THAT A SORT OF THE ACTUAL "IDGET BEHBRET" PLAN

WAS ALREADY CONCEIVED BY THE STUDENTS TWO YEARS AGO. BUT WE THE STUDENTS ARE CONVINCED THAT EVERY RATIONAL ACT MUST CONSIDER PLACE, TIME AND CONDITION LEST NOT TO DENY REALITY. IN THE PAST THE THEN PREVAILING CONDITIONS FORCED SUCH IDEALS TO REMAIN AS IDEAS. BUT THE CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA SEEM TO BE CHANGING, THE NEW PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT LED BY THE ETHIOPIA FIRST MOTTO IS TRYING TO MATERIALIZE THESE IDEALS AND IS APPEALING TO ALL ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AS WELL AS ERITREAN STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED. BUT WE ERITREAN STUDENTS BELIEVE THAT THE CONDITIONS IN ERITREA REMAIN UNCHANGED. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "FUNDAMENTAL" CHANGE IN ETHIOPIAN ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF ERITREA THIS IS VIEWED AS OUSTING AND REPLACING AN OLD AND WEAKENED MACHINE BY A NEW ONE. THEREFORE WE ERITREAN STUDENTS ARE RESOLUTELY DETERMINED TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN DUE TO THE FOLLOWING CONCRETE POLITICAL REASONS:

I. WE THE ERITREAN ASMARA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, VIEW IT AS SUPERFLUOUS THE TRIAL OF RESTORING CIVIL RIGHTS, WHILE THE ERITREAN PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS (SELF-DETERMINATION).

II. THE ERITREAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED, MASSACRED, RAPED, EXPLOITED AND TURNED INTO REFUGEES BY PERSECUTION, FOR THE PAST TWENTY-TWO YEARS. THIS IS STILL BEING PERPETUATED. THE ONA MASSACRE AND THE RECENT OM'HAGGER INCIDENTS ARE SPECTACULAR EXAMPLES OF THE BRUTAL, INHUMAN, ILLEGAL, UNJUST AND BARBARIC ACTIONS OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY TOWARDS THE ERITREAN PEOPLE.

III. THE DENIAL OF AMNESTY TO ERITREAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHILE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE BEING RELEASED REVEALS THE FACT THAT ERITREANS ARE NOT ETHIOPIANS.

IV. THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT STATED THAT IT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO THE "ERITREAN PROBLEMS" WHILE DELAYING THE OFFICIALLY PRONOUNCED "PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT" IT IS PERPETUATING INTIMIDATION AND ATROCITIES.

V. THE ETHIOPIA FIRST MOTTO FORCES UNJUST NATIONAL UNITY AND IS BY NO MEANS A SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00853 010639Z

IN CONCLUSION, IF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BE SERIOUS ENOUGH IT IS DEEMED BEST THAT IT RECOGNIZES AND NEGOTIATES WITH THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ERITREAN PEOPLE- THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

NB. A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION IS GIVEN TO THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT NORTHER ETHIOPIAN SUB-COMMITTEE IN RESPONSE TO ITS MASS EDUCATION PLAN.

(SIGNED) THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ASMARA  
(SEAL) STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY OF ASMARA S.A.U.A.

END QUOTE

2. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREO OF 29 OCT. 1974 CARRIED AN APPEAL BY THE DIRG OF THE NORTH TO ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "PROGRESS THRU COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN. THE APPEAL RECALLS SOCIO-ECONOMIC INJUSTICES THAT EXISTED UNDER THE OLD REGIME, AND TELLS ALL ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS THEY MUST TEACH THE PEOPLE THE NEW SPIRIT OF ETHIOPIA FIRST.

3. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREO OF 31 OCT CARRIED AN ADMONISHMENT FROM THE DIRG OF THE NORTH TO THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS REGARDING OPPOSITION TO THE "PROGRESS THRU COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN. THE ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDED THE STUDENTS TO REGISTER FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND THREATENED SEVERE MEASURES AGAINST THOSE THAT INTERFERE WITH THE CAMPAIGN. AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE ATTACKED THE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS OF THOSE AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY.

4. COMMENT: THE DIRG OF THE NORTH SEEMS TO BE WAGING A PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENTS AND OTHER DISSIDENTS IN THE HOPE THAT PHYSICAL RESOURCES WILL NOT HAVE TO BE USED.

5. CONGEN UNDERSTANDS THAT A FIVE-MAN COMMISSION FROM THE EPMG ARRIVED IN ASMARA TO DISCUSS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF EXCLUDING ERITREAN STUDENTS FROM "PROGRESS THRU COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN.  
SHERRY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, STUDENT GROUPS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ASMARA00853  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740312-1025  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974104/aaaaadfn.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ASMARA 844  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Nov-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ERITREA - THE DIRG VS THE STUDENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PDEV, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005